

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



September 7, 1976

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PRESS CONFERENCE
BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
HAMBURG, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
SEPTEMBER 7, 1976

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Mr. Chancellor and Mr. Foreign Minister, let me take this opportunity first of all to thank both of you for the characteristically warm and cordial reception that we had here. It is customary for American and German Ministers to consult with each other about international events. We are at this moment engaged in discussions with various African countries, and it was therefore considered very desirable by the President as well as myself to have this opportunity to exchange ideas and to obtain the views of the Chancellor and the Foreign Minister. We reviewed the negotiations with respect to southern Africa; we discussed the situation in the Middle East; we talked also about the Law of the Seas Conference and about East-West relations in general. Relations between our two countries are close; the coordination of policies is taking place on every level, including the higher level. The policies of both countries have shown great continuity and will continue to show this, and for all these reasons it has been a great pleasure for me to be here. I want to thank the Chancellor and the Foreign Minister for giving us this opportunity to exchange ideas.

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT: I don't think I have to add much to this, ladies and gentlemen. We have touched upon just about all areas of foreign policy. Secretary Kissinger has already mentioned some of them. I should add that, of course, we have talked especially about East-West relations, the continuation of the policy of "relaxation of tensions," about the agreements to which both the United States of America and we are signatory parties, and the observance of which by ourselves and by the other treaty partners we both feel is of great importance. Maybe I should confine myself to this and leave room for questions, which, as I hope, will be directed mainly to Mr. Kissinger, who as the guest here will be the more interesting man to answer than the born Hamburger or the Wuppertaler who came to us via Bremen from Saxony to become Foreign Minister.

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QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, since you both talked about Africa, may I talk about Africa? Can you make it official, sir, that you will be going to an African shuttle, when will you go, to which capitals will you go, and which parties will you negotiate between?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I cannot at this point make it official. We have had a communication from the Tanzanian Government that they would welcome a visit. I would like to wait, however, until Assistant Secretary Schauffele, who is now on his way to Tanzania, has had an opportunity to talk to President Nyerere and maybe to other Presidents who have been at this meeting before we make the final decision whether to go.

QUESTION: What are the odds, in fact, sir, that you will go, and could you outline the kind of shuttle in which you would engage?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I think it would depend very much on the decisions of the summit, of which we have not yet been formally informed. What we will attempt to do is to bring together the so-called front line presidents that are concerned with Rhodesia, as well as the liberation movements concerned with Rhodesia, on a negotiated program for majority rule and minority rights and an end of warfare in Rhodesia. We would also encourage the process of negotiation that may be possible with respect to Namibia. The United States' objective is to avoid violence. We cannot support violence, and we are bound to oppose foreign interventions. But we will support peaceful negotiations between the various parties. Which countries would be visited — I will want to wait until we have had the official communications from the summit.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, although you have not had formal notification from Dar [es Salaam], you know that they finished their deliberations with a brief statement that said that they intend to further intensify the armed struggle. What kind of an analysis do you make of that?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I cannot make a judgment as to this. The United States' position is to encourage a peaceful solution, to bring about conditions in which majority rule, minority rights, and economic progress can be achieved without violence.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, how soon could you be prepared to leave, sir?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, it is difficult to speculate, but I would be prepared, if the conditions were right, I could leave perhaps next week sometime. But I want to repeat I would first want to await the report of Assistant Secretary Schauffele.

QUESTION: When would you expect to receive this?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I would think that I would have heard from him by Thursday morning.

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QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, what do you think the domestic political impact of the mission would be whether you succeed or fail?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The mission has no domestic political implications. The situation in Rhodesia is such that an escalation of violence is probable, and at some point events may get beyond the control of negotiations. I think that the promotion of peace is a non-partisan effort which will be supported by both political parties and is not contentious between the political parties.

QUESTION: Mr. Chancellor, is Germany willing to participate in the new economic aid program in southern Africa, including a guarantee program for the white minority in Rhodesia?

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT: German interests are foremost and, generally speaking, the same as those Secretary Kissinger has described for the United States of America: namely, the interest to avoid bloodshed and violence; the interest to avoid outside intervention; third, the interest to bring about democratic elections and governments in these countries for these two purposes. I want to add as a fourth point that we Germans are a little bit more interested in Namibia than Rhodesia because in Namibia there are about 25,000 people of German descent with whom we naturally have special links. We have spoken in a general way about the concepts that the American Government has in mind in order to reach these goals, which we have roughly outlined here. These include, too, as Secretary Kissinger has said, not only majority rule but also the rights of minorities. To achieve this, possibly economic aid will be needed. The states which are transforming themselves here need economic help in many respects. The Federal Republic of Germany as worldwide never refused such help. Whether there will be some special assistance and whether we will join in will have to be seen within some weeks or even months. But at the end of these remarks I want to accentuate again our special interest in Namibia.

QUESTION: Mr. Chancellor, you have also mentioned the topic "Ostpolitik"; could you go into a little more detail and be a little more concrete?

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT: The three of us have not used the word "Ostpolitik", but we have, as I have mentioned already, used the expression "relaxation of tensions", but this is the same thing, and we have also discussed the status of the fulfillment of the treaties. In this connection, because of this summer's events, the Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin has also played a role. But maybe it would be better if I would confine myself to saying that we were in complete agreement, and perhaps the American Secretary of State would like to make a few remarks about this subject.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I would say first of all that there was an

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identity of views between Chancellor Schmidt, the Foreign Minister, and ourselves on the issues of East-West relations. As far as the United States is concerned, we will consider the policy of relaxation of tension or detente, which has now been again legitimized by the Republican Platform (laughter), and because we believe that it is necessary for world peace and for the future of mankind. We also believe, however, that such a policy must be based on the strict fulfillment of the letter and the spirit of existing treaties, and we will insist on this, just as we are prepared to carry out the letter and spirit of the existing arrangements. The Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin is an important aspect of this policy and an important test of the sincerity of Soviet intentions. The United States attaches the greatest importance to the strict fulfillment of the provisions of this agreement and the greatest importance to the integrity and freedom of Berlin, and this is a constant policy of the United States which we shall continue to pursue.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, what kind of possibility do you foresee concerning Namibia or SWAPO to join in? Is it possible (inaudible)?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I do not think it would be appropriate for me to give details of discussions that may be taking place. The United States position has been that all authentic groups, among whom we would include SWAPO, should participate in any talks that might be held on the future of Namibia. What the framework of these talks should be -- that remains to be discussed in any negotiations that could place over the next few weeks.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, have you been in contact with SWAPO leaders or Mr. Ian Smith in the lead-up to these discussions or during these discussions with Mr. Vorster?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Under Secretary Rogers and Assistant Secretary Schaefe on their recent trip through Africa had a conversation with the head of SWAPO in addition to conversations with the presidents of African states.

QUESTION: Mr. Chancellor, while I recognize that your discussions with Mr. Kissinger may be preliminary on this point, could you clarify, sir, whether your conception would be of a German national contribution to financial guarantees for southern Africa, or are you speaking possibly in terms of a European Commission or contribution or support?

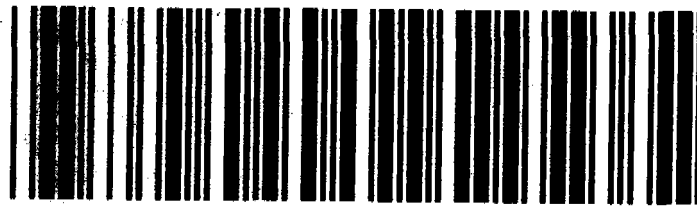
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT: You were right in your introductory remark, that we were treating this matter in "preliminary talks," but I want in any case go go so far as to say that up to now we have not spoken about a common European contribution through the EEC.

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STATEMENT BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
UPON ARRIVAL AT ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE
SEPTEMBER 7, 1976

The President sent me to talks with the Prime Minister of South Africa to see whether we could find steps to end the threat of war in southern Africa, which threatens our security and the peace of the world. Some progress was made, and I will be reporting to the President about this tomorrow morning.

On this trip also, I visited the Prime Minister of Great Britain, the President of France, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany — three valued and trusted allies. They all have strongly supported the American initiative and have indicated their interest in cooperating with us.

Thank you very much.

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